

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Brunswick Facility Fire - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial and Final Pollution Report (POLREP)  
Brunswick Facility Fire  
C4Q3  
Brunswick, GA  
Latitude: 31.1085147 Longitude: -81.5493469

**To:** James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRPPB  
John Maddox, GAEPD

**From:** Kevin Eichinger, FOSC

**Date:** 11/11/2022

**Reporting Period:** November 7 through November 10, 2022

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C4Q3	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	11/7/2022	<b>Start Date:</b>	11/7/2022
<b>Demob Date:</b>	11/9/2022	<b>Completion Date:</b>	11/10/2022
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	GAN000420933	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	1352100	<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Emergency Response  
- Operating Facility.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description and Location

The Symrise - Colonels Island Facility (the Site) is located at 209 SCM Road, Brunswick, Glynn County, GA, 31523. The geographical coordinates are 31.10805, -81.54943. The Site is surrounded to the north and east by industrial facilities and vehicle storage lots associated with the Georgia Ports Authority and to the south and west by marshes, swamps and wetlands. Stormwater flows to the Little Satilla River. Residential neighborhoods are located approximately four miles to the northeast and one mile to the southwest. The facility is a specialty chemical manufacturer that produces fragrances, flavoring and other ingredients for foods and cosmetics. It is situated on approximately 150 acres. The Site stores and processes large quantities of flammable and corrosive liquids and is Facility Response Plan (FRP) regulated.

This incident is in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Jurisdiction. No USCG-On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) was present at the site, and EPA has taken on the role of lead Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC).

#### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A fire and release involving alpha-pinene and pinanyl hydroperoxide occurred at the facility. These hazardous substances, as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, are flammable, reactive and corrosive and are stored and processed in tanks and bulk storage containers. The fire generated a smoke plume that impacted air quality offsite and threatened nearby human populations. Large quantities of other hazardous substances were stored nearby, and there was a threat of fire and explosion.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On November 7 at approximately 0400 hours, Eastern Standard Time (EST), a fire occurred in a production area located in the southern area of the facility. Personnel were onsite at the time and immediately

implemented Site emergency shutdown procedures. Process chemicals feeding the production area were stopped, storm drain valves were closed, and all other processes in the plant were shut down. Plant personnel evacuated the Site. Local emergency officials responded. Large volumes of firefighting water and firefighting foam were used to extinguish the fire and cool down adjacent tanks and process vessels. Nearby neighborhoods were evacuated or placed under a shelter-in-place order as a precaution.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

On November 7, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) requested EPA assistance. Two Federal On-Scene Coordinators, Regional Readiness Center (RRC) Staff and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team Contractors (START) responded.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On November 7, at approximately 2100 hours, EPA assets arrived on site and met with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) and Plant Management. The fire was extinguished, and plant personnel had been given permission to re-enter the facility prior to the arrival of the EPA assets. Local emergency management lifted the shelter-in-place and evacuation orders. A verbal Notice of Federal Interest was issued. This was followed up by a written notice on November 8. The runoff water and any hazardous substances not consumed by the fire were believed to have been captured in the secondary containment surrounding the storage tanks and process vessels and within the facility's stormwater system. The stormwater system was isolated as part of the emergency actions taken by plant personnel when the incident occurred. Overnight, plant personnel assessed all processes to ensure that the emergency shutdown had not caused additional issues. A fire watch was established, and plant personnel regularly assessed the tanks and process vessels throughout the night to ensure that they continued to return to equilibrium.

On November 8, remediation contractors began removing the accumulated firefighting runoff water and firefighting foam and released chemical products from the secondary containment area. The material was stored onsite in portable storage tanks, pending sample analysis receipt and disposal/treatment decisions. The secondary containment around the process vessels remained intact. The process tanks had an internal water cooling system; facility personnel restarted this system to minimize the risk of an uncontrolled chemical reaction within the vessels. Two of the process tanks involved in the fire likely still have residual alpha-pinene, pinanyl hydrogen peroxide and other decomposition products. The secondary containment was emptied, and the remaining material in the impacted process tanks was emptied. Disposal decisions will be based on sampling results. Firefighting water and firefighting foam did breach the stormwater ditch and released it to a swampy area within the facility fence line. Aquatic mortality was observed. Georgia Wildlife Resources Division was notified. Remediation contractors vacuumed this material from the swampy area into portable storage tanks. Georgia Environmental Protection Division will review and oversee the treatment and disposal of waste materials as appropriate. All EPA resources will demobilize on November 9.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The Site is own and operated by the Symrise Corporation.

Plant Manger - Mr. James Carson, 912-261-3314, james.carson@symrise.com  
Environmental Health and Safety Manager - Mr. Jason King, 904-924-2874, jason.king@symrise.com.

### 2.2 Planning Section

Environmental contractors hired by the Facility will conduct cleanup operations under GA EPD oversight.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

Logistical support was provided by:

Local Emergency Officials and Fire Departments.  
The environmental contractor hired by the Facility  
The EPA START Contractor  
The EPA Regional Readiness Center

### 2.4 Finance Section

#### 2.4.1 Narrative

Technical Direction Document (TDD) was issued to START Contractor Tetra Tech, EMI to provide assistance with the response. RRC personnel and resources mobilized under the Emergency Response Training and Equipment Management (ERTEM) contract.

#### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				

TAT/START	\$20,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$13,000.00	65.00%
RRC	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	80.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>68.00%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

No pertinent information to report at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

The Unified Command structure consisted of representatives from the EPA, GA EPD, and Plant Management.

## 4. Personnel On Site

Multiple personnel from the GA EPD, environmental contractors, the EPA and EPA Contractors were on site throughout the response.

EPA FOSC - 2  
RRC Personnel - 1  
START Personnel -3

## 5. Definition of Terms

Abbreviations and acronyms are spelled out within the text of the Pollution Report.

## 6. Additional sources of information

### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Documents, photographs, maps and other important/pertinent information can be found at [response.epa.gov/brunswickfacilityfire](https://response.epa.gov/brunswickfacilityfire). Log-in credentials may be required to view certain documents.

### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

No additional pollution reports are planned at this time.

## 7. Situational Reference Materials

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